

He also set about having the department accredited by as many agencies as possible, believing it would bring increased efficiency, better eligibility for state and federal grants and more protection from civil lawsuits.

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies accredited his department. The American Correctional Association and the National Committee on Correctional Health Care accredited his jails. The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors accredited his crime lab, and the U.S. Department of Justice accredited his bomb squad. The certificates hang in his office lobby, tokens of his proudest achievements.

Earning accreditation is like ridding a home of termites, he said—it's expensive up front, but you do it to save money later. Even so, he often has had to go toe-to-toe with other county agencies to vie for dollars.

Plummer has fought budget battles with the same intensity he brought to controlling riots on Berkeley's streets. He once threatened to close North County Jail rather than cut investigators, crime prevention and animal control. In 1996, asked to trim \$6.9 million from his budget, he instead asked for \$3 million more. "I can't afford to cut one person, so why go through the charade?" he asked at the time.

He doesn't always win. The 1992-93 budget required 300 layoffs, and Plummer had to pink-slip a whole academy class—his lowest moment, he said.

"That hurt me worse than the riots hurt me in Berkeley," he said. "It just tore my heart out. We have warned them it could happen, but that doesn't make it any easier when you're having a graduation and you can't give them badges."

After proclaiming it a "chainsaw massacre," he mustered a crowd, hefted a chainsaw and marched around the courthouse to protest state funding cuts. A penciled caricature of Plummer revving a chainsaw near a courthouse hangs on his office wall.

The budget crunches spurred Plummer to view his department as a business. Assuming that a fully-staffed jail is an economically efficient jail, he sought more contracts to house other agencies' inmates in Alameda County. Plummer's jails have held San Francisco county inmates, state parole violators, federal prisoners from U.S. Marshals in California and Hawaii, and illegal immigrants from the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service.

He acknowledges that those and other contracts, such as providing security for county hospitals and other facilities or events, create a lot of overtime. But his budget always covers it, he noted: "I've never brought in a budget in the red in my life."

He has positions for 920 sworn deputies, 37 of which are now vacant. He hired San Leandro Police Chief Robert Maginnis as an assistant sheriff last August specifically to recruit. Some said Maginnis was being groomed as a likely successor, but Plummer said Undersheriff Curtis Watson already has earned that mantle by paying his dues within the department.

"Also, I would never support anyone who would not agree to give at least two terms," he said, because he believes a sheriff needs at least eight years to be an effective leader.

REPUBLICAN NO MORE

Plummer ended his lifelong GOP membership in June, reregistering with a "no party" designation. Why?

"Guns," he said.

As sheriff, he enacted new requirements for concealed firearm permits—a demonstrated need, a psychiatric exam, \$1 million of liability insurance and qualification at the sheriff's shooting range. State Sen. Don Perata,

D-Alameda, who earned a permit, wants to include such mandates in a plan for statewide licensing and registration for gun owners. Plummer approves, explaining, "we're not really anti-gun, we're pro-gun-responsibility."

But when he heard U.S. Rep. Bob Barr, R-Georgia, speak on the radio against gun control earlier this year, he had an epiphany.

"I thought, 'I don't want my name associated with that crap,'" Plummer said.

He would rather associate with his wife of 51 years, Norma, their three children—two of whom followed him into law enforcement—and eight grandchildren. He also associates with the Boy Scouts, the Rotary and other groups, which he called "great therapy for me"—talking to people outside his work helps him avoid "burnout" after so many years of policing, he said.

His current term will expire in three years, when he's 72; whether he runs again "will depend on how I feel." He admits he'll be "a little long in the tooth," but a recent physical found him fit, and close aides have agreed to tell him if they think he's slowing down.

"If I think I'm taking anything away from this organization, I'm outta here," he said.

HONORING THE DELRAN HIGH SCHOOL SWIM TEAM

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Delran High School swim team for winning its third straight South Jersey Championship and second straight state championship. The Delran swim team dynasty is an excellent example of high school athletes performing at their peak level.

Seldom does a team win a championship, even more rare are back to back championships. It takes extraordinary teamwork, dedication, and perseverance to become a championship team. I applaud the Delran High School swim team's efforts.

I would also like to recognize the following Delran swim team members: Mike Haigh, Steve Kroculik, Rachel Craft, Danielle Hoey, Jenny Kroculik, Karl Scheimreif, Gerall Tieman, Michelle Aleszczyk, Karlee Scheimreif, Jen Tregl, Lauren Schmidt, Danielle Kennedy, Brandon Peer, Craig Tieman, Anne Kennedy Caitlyn Hoey, Ryan Hannon, Pat Reynolds and Joey Iannuzzi.

Perhaps the most important role of any team is that of the one played by the coach. Delran's coach, Michael Kennedy, molded and trained this formidable championship swim squad. Coach Kennedy's efforts cannot be overlooked and should be commended.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this special group of individuals. Their efforts have brought pride to their community, families and high school.

RE-REFERRAL OF S. 1809

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today S. 1809 was re-referred to the Committee on

Commerce and in addition the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Titles I and III have been traditionally in the sole jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce and Title II, Family Support, has been traditionally in the sole jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Title II, Family Support, would authorize a program that was originally created in Section 315 of P.L. 103-382, Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, which created a new Part I in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. In 1997, Part I, Family Support of IDEA was repealed by Section 203(a), Repealers, of P.L. 105-17, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997. See H.R. 5, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve our community. The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 22nd Annual Valor Awards today, Friday, February 11, 2000. The Chamber will recognize law enforcement and emergency response personnel for their acts of bravery. A Valor Award is the highest honor Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety employees.

The Valor Award recipients are selected by a committee that designates honorees for a Lifesaving Award, a Certificate of Valor, or a Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor. This year, it is expected that 37 agency personnel will be honored for acts of bravery that demonstrated extraordinary ingenuity, judgment, or zeal.

Mr. Speaker, I would be honored today to read the names of the 17 men and women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department who will receive the 1999 Valor Awards. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Firefighter Barry J. Rathbone and Lieutenant Paul A. Masiello; Certificate of Valor: Lieutenant Robert E. Wheeler and Firefighter Joseph M. Laun. Bronze Medal of Valor: Technician William M. Best, Captain I Vincent R. McGregor, and Technician Kurt A. Hoffman; Silver Medal of Valor: Dr. Joseph Barbera, Captain Robert C. Dube, Master Technician Michael A. Istvan, Lieutenant Joseph E. Knerr, Technician Evan J. Lewis, Dr. Anthony Macintyre, Technician Glenn A. Mason, Technician Michael J. Stone, Technician Rex E. Strickland, and Master Technician Jack L. Walmer.

In 1989, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce established a special fund to award scholarships to the children of Valor Award medal winners who wish to pursue post-secondary education. Support of the Scholarship Fund demonstrates the sincere appreciation of our County's public safety officers. Over the past ten years, more than one hundred generous businesses and individuals have contributed to this worthy fund, and numerous scholarships have been awarded.